Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR. AU

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

- 1. AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL MINISTER SMITH CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS JANUARY 29 TO DISCUSS AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON PROPOSED 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM. SMITH'S MAJOR POINT WAS THAT PROPOSED PROGRAM LEVEL OF 1,150 MILLION POUNDS WAS TOO LOW AND THAT AUSTRALIA AGREED WITH NEW ZEALAND THAT 1,300 MILLION POUNDS WAS REASONABLE FIGURE. HOWEVER, AUSTRALIA RECOGNIZED U.S. DIFFICULTIES AND WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS LEVEL FURTHER.
- 2. SMITH SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT, IF AUSTRALIA AGREED ON RESTRAINT LEVEL, ITS MARKET POSITION WOULD NOT BE UNDERCUT BY UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS FROM EC SOURCES THROUGH THE UK OR FROM CANADA (ASSUMING US RETALIATORY QUOTAS LIFTED IN FUTURE). SMITH ALSO MENTIONED AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN SOME KIND OF U.S. ASSURANCES ON LONGER TERM AUSTRALIAN ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET AND IN SOME RECIPROCAL CONCESSION FROM THE U.S. FOR THE SACRIFICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRALIA WOULD MAKE IN AGREEING TO MEAT EXPORT RESTRAINTS

IN 1975 (FOR EXAMPLE, U.S. CONCESSION ON MEAT IMPORT DUTY).

3. ENDERS EXPLAINED DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY SOME OF AUSTRALIAN SUGGESTIONS, INDICATING THAT COMPENSATION WAS

UNREALISTIC FOR VOLUNTARY PROGRAM AND THAT U.S. HAD VERY

LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING PROPOSED OVERALL RESTRAINT LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS HE SAID THAT U.S. WOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO AUSTRALIA'S VIEWS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: IMPORTS, MEATS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

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